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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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First Named Inventor : Nobuo ISHII
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Docket No. : 101248.55500US

Customer No. : 23911

Title : Plasma Processing System

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R § \$ 1.97 AND 1.98

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

CONCISE EXPLANATION OF NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE DOCUMENTS

English abstract summarizing the disclosures of the publications are submitted herewith.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding foreign Search Report citing such documents, together with

an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R.§ 1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

December 14, 2004

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Respectfully submitted.

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Serial No. Attorney Docket No. FORM PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce 101248.55500US PCT/JP02/04447 Patent & Trademark Office Applicant: Nobuo ISHII INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Filing Date Group STATEMENT To Be Assigned October 7, 2004 (Use several sheets if necessary) U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Sub-Examiner Document Filing Date Class Initial Number Date Name Class (if appropriate) AA ABACAD ΑE AF AG AΗ ΑI AJFOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS TRANSLATION Examiner Document Sub-Class Name Class Initial Number Date Yes JP 10-134995 A Toshiba, Corp. AK 5/22/98 Abstract ALJP 2002-75969 A 3/15/02 Hitachi, Ltd. Abstract Tokyo Electron Ltd. AM JP 2001-319884A 11/16/01 Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication.